painting and decorating, &c., virtually excluded that class from its advantages. On these grounds it was proposed to establish, in various parts of the metropolis, local artisan schools,—the neighbourhood of Camden-town being selected for the first of such establishments. A school was proposed to be opened in that district for instruction in drawing and modelling, on payment, by adults, of 1s. 6d. per month, and by lads under fifteen years of age of 1s. per month. The school to be open three evenings in each week.

The Chairman opened the proceedings in an eloquent and admirable address, in which he forcibly urged the importance of art-education to the class of operatives mentioned in the prospectus. The committee were not only about to set an example, but to follow one; as they had formed their plan not only on the model of the Government School of Design, but more particularly on the schools of Paris, where there was one in every arrondissement. They had no connection with the school at Somerset House, though they had any feeling in the world but that of hostility towards it. That establishment was, however, far removed from the homes of the workmen, and he could state that it was at present so full that a student could not be admitted without three or four months' notice. The school now proposed was actually formed, a room capable of accommodating 200 students had been engaged, and half-a-year's rent paid. Subscriptions had been raised amongst manufacturers, artists, and other gentlemen of the neighbourhood, and he hoped that subscription would be aided by the shillings of the workmen, so that the plan might be successfully carried out. Though chiefly intended for adults, the school would be open also to the young; to the sons, and he hoped even the daughters, of working men. The committee would give their best attention to its conduct and management, and he had much pleasure in stating that instruction would be given to the students by Mr. W. Cave Thomas, whose genius had been so justly rewarded in the Westminster Hall exhibition, and whose education in Germany and Italy, and more particularly his knowledge of the application of art to manufactures, peculiarly qualified him for the task. Though at first drawing and modelling only would be taught, the establishment must, in fact, become a school of design. He hoped none of his hearers would be deterred by the idea that it was too late to learn; and to refute that notion he referred in animated terms to Compton, the improver of the weaver's loom; to Lee, the inventor of the stocking-loom; to the late George Stephenson, the engineer; to Arkwright, Brindley, the poet Burns, Holcroft the dramatist, Sir Humphrey Davy, and James Watt,—all of whom were thirty years of age, or upwards, before they adopted those pursuits, or made those great discoveries, which had rendered them so famous. English workmen had the strongest capacity for any species of instruction: it was well known (and it was no reproach to the manufacturers) that many masters had men in their employment of superior abilities to their own; and the manufacturer could do absolutely nothing unless seconded by able workmen. In the approaching exhibition they would have to compete with those who were well trained to the wearing of armour and the use of weapons; but if such schools as that now contemplated were extensively adopted, he was confident the exhibition of 1856 would place this country far above every competitor.

A series of resolutions were unanimously carried, declaratory of the advantages to be derived from the proposed establishment, and pledging the meeting to support it by subscriptions and otherwise.

Lord Compton, Mr. Donaldson, Mr. Fairholt, Mr. Seddon, Mr. Godwin, and other gentlemen addressed the meeting, and much good feeling was displayed between employers and workmen. Mr. Warren, the secretary, explained that the room which had been taken was in Mary's-terrace, High-street, Camden-town; that it would be opened on the 1st of May; and that the committee would attend at the school on the evening of the 24th, 29th, and 30th instant, to afford every information to those who might be disposed to join it.

Books.

Sections of the London Strata; to which is prefixed a Block Plan of the Metropolis and its Suburbs. By Robert W. Mylne, C.E., &c. London: James Wyld, Charing-cross. 1850.

This series of sections has been prepared and published, though imperfect in details, with the view of aiding the sanitary improvement of the metropolis, by a few contributions to our knowledge of the varying depths and undulations of the geological strata on which the metropolis stands, and into which its wells have been sunk. Of the five sections now published, the first, only, has the strata delineated in detail with geological references: the remaining four sections are only in outline, denoting the depths of the several wells intersected, with the surface and chalk undulations. It is proposed to complete these from materials already collected, with an additional map, and letter-press on wells and water levels, &c.

Iron applied to Railway Structures. By G. Dendale Dempsey, C.E. London: Atchley and Co., Great Russell-street. 1850.

This is a very useful and concise essay on a subject which has acquired great interest since the fracture which took place lately of the iron girder of the bridge over the river Dee, on the Chester Railway. A condensed report of the experiments that were subsequently conducted by Governmental authority, and which proved so unexpected in the results, is clearly stated, and, with the sections and diagrams of many recently-erected iron girder bridges, renders the work of much utility to all persons likely to engage in similar undertakings, though the subject might well have been treated of at greater length.

Outlines of Experimental Chemistry; being a familiar Introduction to the Science of Agriculture, designed for the use of Schools and Schoolmasters. By Thomas Tate, late Lecturer on Chemistry in the Battersea Training College, &c. London: Longman and Co., Paternoster-row. 1850.

Students have here the substance of Mr. Tate's own lectures, as a teacher of chemistry. The treatise, however, is chiefly designed for the use of the teacher. It is mostly of a very elementary nature—as, indeed, it ought to be,—but it seems to contain all that is really essential to those for whose behoof it has been prepared, simplicity being one of its chief recommendations.

Money v. Life; a Review of Colliery Casualties. By C. Colwell, Southwark. Simpkin and Marshall, London.

This little volume is designed to give more publicity and exposure to the grievances of the poor labouring miners than they generally obtain, even with the best endeavours of the newspaper-press. Whatever be the result of the renewed inquiry by Government into the state of mines, directed in the present instance to an investigation of the condition of the northern coal districts, there is here enough, and more than enough, to show the necessity of immediate legislative interference, unless indeed the mine-owners against whom charges of so serious a nature are alleged can satisfactorily rebut these charges, which there is but too much reason to fear they cannot either truthfully or entirely do. Mr. Colwell specially recommends a stringent system of mine inspection, for the enforcement of proper regulations, the prevention of improper practices, the ventilation, and in general the proper conduction of mining industry, with an adequate regard to the lives, the limbs, and the health of the miners.

The General Malaria of London and the Peculiar Malaria of Pimlico Investigated. By A. Ure, M.D. Orr and Co., Paternoster-row. 1850.

This is a pamphlet embodying Dr. Ure's view of the cause of the accident at the Kenilworth-street sewer, already set forth by us. We regret that it is pervaded by those personal animadversions which gave so unpleasant an aspect to the controversy between him and other eminent chemists; the pamphlet, moreover contains an assertion which, if not controverted, must do injury to Mr. Cubitt's and other important property throughout Pimlico.

The Upholsterers' and Decorators' Benevolent Association.—The first anniversary in commemoration of the foundation of this society, and in aid of the funds by which its beneficent views are to be carried out, took place yesterday, in the great hall of the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, where upwards of 200 gentlemen sat down to dinner. The chair was occupied by Mr. C. Lushington, M.P., supported by many influential persons connected with the trade of upholstery, &c., and the result was a liberal subscription to the funds.

Miscellanea.

Chaldean Antiquities.—Letters from Bagdad state that Mr. Loftus, the geologist to the commission demarcating the Turco-Persian frontier, had visited the most remarkable ancient sites in Lower Chaldea. The ruins now called Werka, which represents the Ur of the Chaldees, whence took place the exodus of Abraham, were found to be of great extent. A vast number of ancient coffins of baked clay, highly glazed, and covered with figures of men in relief, were discovered in one spot, the coffins being adapted to the shape of the body, with oval ornamented lids; a water jar was attached to each coffin. Numerous bricks covered with cuneiform characters were brought away, together with pieces of terra cotta in the shape of bull's horns, and fragments of a hexagonal clay cylinder, inscribed with a long historical record, similar to that from Nineveh deposited in the British Museum by Mr. Layard. Mr. Loftus is the first European visiter to this primeval seat of the Jewish race. The commission will traverse a country studded with Chaldean ruins, and discoveries, therefore, may be made of the utmost importance in aiding the effort, by help of inscriptions from Nimrood and Babylon, to unfold the early history of the east. May not such discoveries also unexpectedly shed some collateral light on the early history of *the west?*—the extreme or transatlantic west, we mean. For instance, the singular practice in Ur of attaching a water jar to each coffin is adopted by American Indians to the present day. They also appear to bury in coffins much like these ancient Chaldean ones in shape. Another circumstance we may here remark with reference to ancient Egypt, and the alleged similitude of its architectural remains to some of those that have so lately and so strangely turned up in California and in central America. Some preserved heads of American Indian chiefs, which we happened to see many years ago, were clearly mummified by means of tar. Now Col. Hold, at a meeting of the Asiatic Society a short time since, observed, that during his residence at the Red Sea he ascertained that in all probability the ancient Egyptians prepared their mummies principally with the vegetable tar called by the Arabs Katren. The colonel, in fact, exhibited some specimens of tarred mummification of his own manufacture, in imitation of the ancient Egyptian process. The west and the east,—the 'new' world and the 'old,'—may not have been so totally disconnected in their ancient course of events as may have heretofore appeared to be the case. We may add, that we are quite aware of the idea (which may, for all that we know, turn out to be quite correct) that the Indian race is not that whose forefathers are supposed to have built those cities the extraordinary ruins of which have been recently discovered in America.

The Brick Trade.—The following instructions have been received by the officers of inland revenue from the commissioners at Somerset House:—A drawback of 50 per cent. is to be allowed on all bricks remaining on the premises where manufactured, provided they be in fair condition, and have not been used, excepting for the external covering for clamps. Clamps are not to be opened for the purpose of ascertaining that the whole of the bricks are sound and perfect; but no allowance is to be made on clinkers, or bricks so damaged as obviously not to be marketable, as the 10 per cent. allowed in charging was intended to cover such contingencies. The Board expect the utmost activity and exertion, and desire that a fair and liberal interpretation be given to this order in settling the amount of stock on hand.

Finsbury Park.—The new park proposed for the borough of Finsbury, it is suggested, shall have its entrance at Highbury, passing along the right side of the Holloway and Hornsey road to the Seven Sisters'-house, from thence taking an easterly direction to the Green-lanes, and then proceeding south to the New River, completing the enclosure—a space of 300 acres. In addition, it is proposed to form an esplanade on the banks of the New River, which runs through the park, 15 feet in width, commencing at the New North-road, and extending to the reservoirs at Lordship-lane; the total cost of the undertaking, being estimated at 150,000*l.*

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